



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

July 2, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer *WTF*

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W. *MJS*  
Director of Mental Health

Board of Supervisors  
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First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
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Third District

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## REPORT BACK ON PREVENTING A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE REDUCTION FOR DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS (ITEM NO. 55, AGENDA OF MAY 20, 2014)

On May 20, 2014, a Motion presented by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to report back every two weeks regarding the identification of appropriate alternative sites for the provision of DMH CalWORKs services, Wellness Clinical Team services, and Prevention and Early Intervention programs that were relocated from the Little Tokyo Lofts (LTL) site, so that no service delivery delays or reductions will occur for the County residents originally targeted for services. Every two weeks written updates will be provided to the Board until alternative sites are identified and opened for services.

Since our last report dated June 18, 2014, CEO Real Estate Division (CEO-RED) has made progress in locating alternative space for the CalWORKs program and space for the Preventive and Early Intervention (PEI) program. The location is 621 South Maple Avenue and 224 East 6th Street – former Greyhound/Rapid Transit District (RTD) station covering the entire City block. If space allows, the Wellness Clinical Team will also be programmed into this location. It was previously planned that CalWORKs would be located in the Leavey Community Health Center. However, due to the lack of clinical space and the impact on client services, we have found a more suitable alternative. DMH staff has reviewed the location and a review by Second District staff has been scheduled for July 14, 2014. CEO-RED and the building management continue to work on the space plan and lease terms. Once lease terms and necessary tenant

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improvements (TI's) are negotiated, we will need expedited approval by the Board to enter into the lease and approval of the funding for the TI's to avoid undue interruption of client services. We will continue to provide additional details of our progress in our next report on July 16, 2014.

Progress continues on the preparation of the modular space located at 640 and 646 South Maple Avenue that is planned to house the Wellness Teams. This location will also house the staff moving from the Downtown Mental Health Clinic (DMHC). The CEO Board Letter seeking approval of the renovation project of the County purchased DMHC building is scheduled for July 29, 2014.

The following is an update on sites reviewed by CEO-RED over the past two weeks:

- 1813 East Washington Boulevard – Staff has toured the site, however, the ownership continues to be non-responsive regarding our desire to discuss a possible lease for DMH services. We will continue to reach out to them.
- 543 South Crocker Street – The Volunteers of America (VOA) facility was toured with DMH staff. It has been determined that this site is not the most suitable for the current DMH program needs due to limited space and parking availability.
- 621 South Maple Avenue and 224 East 6th Street – [Former Greyhound/Rapid Transit District (RTD) station covering the entire City block] – Discussions are progressing as an alternative site for both the PEI and CalWORKs programs.
- 415 East 6th Street - Constructive discussions continue with the ownership as a possible long-term DMH DMCH satellite office once the owner completes major renovations of the building. The DMH tour of the premises on June 17, 2014, yielded positive feedback. This site could provide long term space if the owner moves forward with their plans to renovate the property.

With regard to the status of the LTL site, the CEO continues contact with the LTL facility management. A tour of the facility to discuss safety issues with the CEO, DMH staff and Sheriff is targeted for early August to be followed by a meeting with the residents. DMH administrative staff targeted to move into the LTL site toured the parking location, reviewed the preliminary space plan and met regarding their concerns on June 18, 2014. There were a number of concerns noted by staff, mainly focused on personal safety due to the close proximity to the core of the skid row community. CEO and Union representatives were present and committed to working together to resolve as many concerns as possible to facilitate the transition. The administrative staff move to the LTL is targeted for November 2014.

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The CEO and DMH have made significant progress in finding alternative space suitable to continue client services. We are hopeful that we can negotiate lease and TI terms with the building ownership that will meet the approval of the Board so that a workable plan can be implemented as soon as possible.

If you have questions, your staff may contact Rita Robinson at (213) 893-2477, or email [rrobinson@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:rrobinson@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:MJS  
RLR:RK:os

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel